



VHF CONTEST

This month we have two club VHF activities to report on. First, the results of the September ARRL VHF QSO Party came out last month, and our Mt. Equinox operation resulted in a THIRD PLACE finish, our best ever! In first was the unbeatable W2SZ/1 group who operate from Mt. Greylock in Adams, Massachusetts just a few miles from our operation. Their score was 462,384. In second was the K3YTL group from eastern Pennsylvania with 182,252. Our third place score was 143,040 putting us well ahead of our local rivals, K1TR, who had 118,701 from Mt. Wachusett in Princeton, Massachusetts and came in fourth.

Admittedly, our high finish was somewhat due to the lower number of multioperator stations who get on in September as compared to June but still this finish is one more step in our climb up the standings ladder. Our equipment is still being improved, although it is getting harder to do as we are beginning to reach "state of

the art" on many bands. This result is quite an achievement for a general interest club such as ours to make in a very specialized area of our hobby. This is especially true when you consider that when we started out a few years ago, no one in the group really knew anything about VHF.

The second VHF activity to report on is the January VHF Sweepstakes. Again this year there was no W1TKZ multioperator activity, but several club members operated their home stations. Our leading VHFer, Arnie Adelman, W1GCI, made several hundred contacts on 50-432 MHz. Also operating from home were Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, with some help from Bill Downing, W1LPQY; Bill Hanlon, N1ADY; Dick Paret, W1ZLQ; Mort Cohan, K1IU; and Allan Bacon, K1BA. Nels Anderson, K1UR, operated fixed-mobile from the Worcester Airport hill. All these scores will be combined to go toward a club aggregate entry as we have done in the past. If anyone else operated, please let us know.

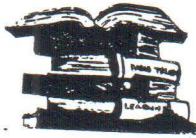
ANNOUNCEMENT

At our February 2 meeting we will be having a talk on Packet Radio, one of Amateur Radio's newest forms of communications. The speakers will be from the New England Packet Radio Association which was started recently to promote this mode of operation in the New England area. Quite a few members of the association are currently operational on packet radio using primarily the 2 meter band. As part of the evenings program, we expect to have a demonstration packet radio QSO. Here's your chance to become familiar with the latest in Amateur Radio. See you February 2 at 7:30 p.m.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH: _____

February 2, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.
February 16, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

education corner



Our current Novice class started on January 9 and will continue each Monday night at 7:00 p.m. for ten to twelve weeks. The first class had 18 students in attendance and we picked up several more at the second meeting, so we are starting off with well over twenty students. It looks like we will have another good class and a large group of new Novices in a few months. Good luck to all the class members.

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

This month we would like to welcome the following new members to the club. They are George Joubert, KALJIP, of Watertown; and Ralph Vacca, WIKF, of Waltham. Welcome to both of you and we hope you will enjoy your membership. With these new people our membership now stands at 92.

Auctions / Flea Markets

February 25: Norwood ARA flea market, to be held at the Norwood Junior High on Washington Street in South Norwood. Take Route 1, then north on Dean Street, then left on Washington Street for a tenth of a mile. Talk in on 146.295/895. Admission is \$1 and a table is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. For information or table reservation, contact Ed LaJoie, K1CB, 20 Hemlock Street, Norwood, Mass. 02062.
April 14: Our own W.A.R.S. auction, to be held once again at the Wellesley Hills First Congregational Church, right next to the club on Route 16 at the intersection of Route 9. Check in starts at 10:00 a.m. and the auction starts at 11:00.

Hamnews

The Anchorage, Alaska, ARC will probably be named the nation's first Volunteer Examination Coordinator

shortly. The club and the FCC are in the final stages of negotiation whereby the Anchorage ARC will become VEC for the KL7 testing district. According to Wilse Morgan, KL7CQ, President of the group, the club has over 400 members and a treasury exceeding \$40,000 with which to take on the project.

Much of their money is raised annually by use of their State of Alaska Gambling License plus their non-profit status; much of the funds they raise are donated to charitable organizations.

Recently, their Board of Directors passed a resolution creating a VEC Committee to oversee the program based directly on the guidelines set forth by the FCC and are only waiting for a go ahead from the Commission to begin testing. John B. Johnston, W3BE, of the FCC's Personal Radio Bureau has confirmed that negotiations with the Anchorage club are underway but declined to say exactly when their appointment as the nation's first VEC would be made.

Westlink Report, January 13, 19

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259

VICE PRESIDENT:

David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450

RECORDING SECRETARY:

David Kent, N2AWG, 647-9334

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382

TREASURER:

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091

FUND RAISING:

Kevin Kelly, W4YHV, 242-0341

OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, 655-7048

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:

Art Thompson, KA1ENP, 235-5509

STATION MANAGER:

Bob Drapeau, K1LK, 883-1132

REPEATER COMMITTEE:

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 899-5924

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR:

NEL ANDERSON, KLUR
92 BISHOP DRIVE
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701
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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



MINUTES

Meeting of January 5, 1984:

The meeting began at 7:40 p.m. with a talk by George Downs, W1CT, on the past and present of radiotelegraphy. There were twenty people in attendance.

After a brief intermission, the business meeting was opened at 9:03 p.m. by President Nels Anderson, KLUR.

The Secretary's report was read.

The Treasurer's report was read.

Erik Thoresen, KLOGF, gave a report on the Framingham Mall Message Fair. Overall, we originated 354 messages and once again made the BPL award.

Nels Anderson, KLUR, proposed that we purchase a new folding table to replace the one that disappeared around

the time we moved. After discussion, the proposal was unanimously approved.

It was announced by Kevin Kelly, W1YHV, that we have Saturday, April 14 confirmed with the church for our auction.

A reminder was given about club participation in the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes.

The meeting was closed at 9:23 p.m.

Meeting of January 19, 1984:

The meeting was opened at 7:43 p.m. by President Nels Anderson, KLUR, with about 25 in attendance.

The Secretary was absent so there was no Secretary's report.

The Treasurer's report was given.

A report on the VHF Sweepstakes was given by those individuals who operated.

A reminder was given about the upcoming Novice Roundup.

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, gave a report on the state of the repeater. The transmitter went off the air again last week and the feeling is that it is becoming too unreliable. A suggestion was made to start thinking about ways to raise funds for a new transmitter.

The meeting was closed at 7:56 p.m. and a video tape on packet radio from the St. Louis packet radio group was shown.

STATION ACTIVITIES

Are there any Novices out there would like to operate the Novice Roundup from W1TKZ? We will make the club station available to anyone who is interested in operating this contest which runs from January 29 to February 5. If you are a Novice with no home station and would like to use W1TKZ, please contact Nels Anderson, KLUR, at 872-5259 to arrange a time to operate. If you have your own station, it is highly recommended that you try out this special contest as it is a great way to improve your operating abilities.

It Seems to Me...

from Collector and Emitter,
Oklahoma City, via ARNS

From the start of Amateur Radio operating, Amateurs have prided themselves on initiating and maintaining a high standard of operation.

Such standards have never been established on some arbitrary or artificial basis. Always the consideration has been clean, ethical operation, intelligence in minimum time and with the maximum courtesy toward other Amateur Radio operators.

A tradition of high standards has been followed by the vast majority of thoughtful operators. There have been exceptions, of course. Sometimes these exceptions have been the results of deliberate rudeness, purposeful departure from polite behavior. More often, though, they have been unintentional acts committed because the operator had not made himself informed about accepted practices.

Not often it is necessary to deliberately seek out instructions of what constitutes "good" operation. Just following the norm of polite, civilized behavior automatically guides one into the proper procedures!

Let's take an example. Suppose you approach a group of acquaintances who are chatting among themselves. You'd like to say a bit yourself. Would you as a civilized human being, barge into that group yelling "Break, break"? Of course not! You'd be cut dead for the cruel lout you'd just shown yourself to be! You'd actually say something like, "Hello," "Good Morning," "Good Evening," or some other polite word of greeting. Then, you'd ask if you could join their conversation.

Once admitted into the conversational group, would you, as a polite person, take over and monopolize, demanding that the others keep silent solely because they'd permitted you to join their conclave? Of course not!

Another example...Perhaps you're in a crowded drawing room. People are

chatting in little groups. Would you, as a polite individual, start shouting loudly so as to drown out all other conversations just so you could voice your ideas to the persons immediate around you? Not if you're a well mannered person.

Another example. You're talking to a chap; there's nothing to make your words difficult to hear and comprehend. Would you, as a cultured person, say everything over and over again, implying your listener to be so devoid of intelligence he has to have every statement drummed home with a repetition before he can grasp it? Not if you want to keep friends!

Just a bit of reflection will show the astute individual there's nothing strange about "good" Amateur Radio operating practices. They're just actions that fall naturally to well mannered persons.

Hamnews

The FCC formally reprimanded an Amateur for mailing an altered copy of his license to the Radio Amateur Call book. General Class ham Raymond Bower, W4LNC, wanted to be listed as an Amateur Extra licensee. A Commission news release dated December 21 stated that this was a "misuse of a Commission license and did not comport with the high standard of conduct expected in the Amateur Radio Service."

ARRL Letter, January 5, 1984

Did you work the Space Shuttle? Although several W.A.R.S. members tried during the STS-9 mission, none of their calls appear in the W5LFL log published in the "ARRL Letter." The only familiar local call is that of ARRL Section Manager K1PAD (congratulations Rick!). It also appears that it helped to know someone, as several prominent calls appear in the list, including W1AW (ARRL Headquarters), K7UGA (Senator Barry Goldwater), W5RRR (Johnson Space Center Radio Club), and JY1 (King Hussein of Jordan).

ARRL Letter, January 5, 1984

Hamnews

"Basically I feel the item is a report on the health of the Amateur Radio Service. The Amateur Radio Service is well, it's thriving, and it's providing an excellent service to the American public." With these words Private Radio Bureau Chief Robert Foosaner introduced the staff recommendation to the FCC Commissioners that the "No-Code" proposal (Docket 83-28) be dismissed "for keeps." Almost 5000 comments were filed, running 20 to 1 against removing the code requirement.

Foosaner said that in reaching the decision, the Private Radio Bureau considered three questions: (1) Is the Amateur Radio Service growing? (2) Is the code an unnecessary barrier to young computer-oriented individuals? (3) Is the slow-speed code requirement discriminatory against handicapped individuals? Question one was answered by statistics showing that in 1930 there were 30,000 licensees; in 1975, 300,000 and in 1983 well over 400,000. On the second point, Foosaner noted that although the code test is something one must prepare for, it requires a minimal amount of study to pass the slow-speed exam. Finally, Foosaner read a portion of the comments filed by Handi-Hams, which reported that they had trained over 5000 severely handicapped individuals in the skills needed to pass Amateur Radio examinations. For some of these individuals, Morse Code is the only mode that they are capable of using!

"In conclusion," the bureau chief said, "I strongly recommend that we maintain the code requirement, we endorse the Service as it is, and we bury the concept of 'no-code.'" Ten months ago few hams would have expected this statement to come from the FCC staff. But that is what the staff recommended, and a few minutes later the FCC Commissioners voted unanimously to keep the Morse Code requirement

for all classes of ham licenses in the United States.

Chairman Mark Fowler made these concluding statements:

"...I think this is the right decision; we can put it to rest once and for all and I agree with the item... Radio Amateurs have contributed vitally to our country just recently; they were stalwart in their services in performing communications with Grenada... The Code sometimes is very important, indeed even critical for getting the messages through..."

ARRL Letter, December 20, 1983

CHUCKLE KORNEL

AMATEUR RADIO VOCABULARY

from Boulder ARC's BARC BARK
via ARNS

PARASITIC ELEMENTS: A common problem, usually mistletoe growing on your dipole.

PUSH-PULL AMPLIFIER: Can be identified by the handle on each end of the case.

ANTENNA FEED: Best to use is powdered aluminum. In a pinch, Kibbles 'n Bits will do.

DIGITAL LOGIC: Counting on your fingers is permitted in FCC exams, however, square roots and exponential numbers are not recommended unless you are double jointed.

FERRITE BEADS: Highly poisonous bait for Ferrites, small nocturnal animals which feed on coaxial cable. Handle this stuff with rubber gloves.

DECAY TIME: Little known property of integrated circuits. The number of days an IC will continue to function before its insides rot out. This time may be slowed down by keeping your radio in an icebox. Use of cold solder joints on IC circuits will help slow down this decay time.

FREQUENCY RESPONSE: Your percentage of confirmed QSO's. More exactly the number of QSL's you have received divided by the number you have sent out, multiplied by 100. 25% is doing

good outside of the Novice band, 99% is poor in the Novice band.

WHEATSTONE BRIDGE: Small village in Northern England where Marconi's first radio signals were received.

POLARIZATION: Operation of a radio in cold environment. CW is usually not used in extremely cold environments as the dits and dahs tend to stick together.

CHEBYSHEV FILTERS: Russian cigarettes. Better than IRC's for getting QSL's back.

CARRIER FREQUENCY: A bit redundant; the first ship equipped with a radio.

RF SUPPRESSION: A recent attempt to put restrictions on power levels that are presently permitted. Headed by several consumer advocates, their data was indicative that VHF and higher radio waves were hazardous to your health. For further reference see the book, "Invisible Enemy."

DIPOLE ANTENNA: Any antenna that is suspended between two poles, hence the name dipole.

FOLDED DIPOLE: A dipole that has not been taken out of the box yet.

Hamnews

The FCC has informed ARRL that a permanent third party traffic agreement is now in effect between the United States and Grenada, J3.

ARRL Letter, December 20, 1983

The FCC has commenced issuing 10 year Amateur licenses. P.R. Docket No. 83-337 became effective on October 15, 1983, but actual implementation could not get underway because the Commission's computers needed to be re-programmed. Licenses that specify the old 5 year term will still expire on the date shown on the license. The new 10 year license term will begin only when a license is renewed or modified. Of course, new, first time licenses issued will now bear a 10 year license term.

ARRL Letter, January 5, 1984

The National Cable Television Association (NCTA) has indicated a willingness to communicate with cable operators involved in CATV/Amateur Radio interference disputes with the goal of effecting resolutions in individual cases around the country. If you would like to have your case reviewed by the newly-appointed joint ARRL/NCTA committee for CATVI, please request a reporting form from the CATVI Desk, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111.

ARRL Letter, January 5, 1984

Jennifer Gobel, KA3GXX, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, was among the last to earn an Extra Class license prior to the cutoff of testing by the FCC for the year 1983.

Jennifer traveled to Denver on December 28th, where she successfully passed all elements necessary to upgrade from Novice to Extra in one sitting before the FCC examiners.

She passed the General Class exam with only 9 errors, the Advance with only 13 mistakes and the Extra with only 8, not to mention breezing through the 20 wpm code test. Thus Jennifer will soon receive a "0" Extra call sign.

What really makes this story so interesting, though, is that this young lady is only 11 years old! Tnx W0BWJ.

Westlink Report, January 13, 1984

Elections

It is time to start thinking about who you would like to see running the club next year. Nomination of officers is held at the second meeting in March each year (March 15 this year). Election Committee Chairman, C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, will take nominations by mail any time up to that meeting as well as during the meeting. If you would like to nominate anyone, including yourself, you can mail your nomination to C.J. McDonald, 48 Hale Street, Newton, Mass. 02164.